

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 4-15, 17-28, 30-41, and 43-48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Le Pennec et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0020272), but has indicated that claims 3, 16, 29, and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 4-14, 17-27, and 30-48 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 15 and 16, and claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 28 and 29. Claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 28, and 29 have been cancelled.

Each of the claims remaining in this application is believed to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested..

Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19903.0012).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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